

awkward scrapes in their correction. Mr. Henry Duesbury was the architect of this Exchange, and Mr. I. W. Stevenson the clerk of works.—The first stone of a new Methodist chapel was laid in Hobson-street, Cambridge, on Thursday week. It is to accommodate upwards of 1,500 persons, with a school-room and vestry beneath, and "will have some architectural pretensions."—The Chichester Cathedral restorations are progressing. The window of three lights over the western porch, blocked up for some years, has been filled with painted glass.—A new lantern, with much more slender bars than the thick ones which heretofore obstructed the light, is being constructed for Eldystone Lighthouse.—The foundation stone of the Victoria Tower at Guernsey, in commemoration of her Majesty's visit, in August, 1846, was laid on Saturday last, with great ceremony, in presence of the royal court, and by the governor of the island.

#### ERPINGHAM UNION COMPETITION.

SIR,—As it is too much to expect that everything passing should force itself upon your notice, I beg to recommend to your attention (as I see it is not mentioned in your paper of this week), a step towards the furtherance of the dignity and well-doing of the professors of the art in England. The guardians of the Erpingham Union (it is a pity that the locality is at present not more known to fame) are in want of a workhouse for their Poor-law Union, with about forty distinct wards, and three residences; and in their address to the architects of England they advertise that a sum shall be paid to the "persons whose plans" shall be approved by the guardians and the Poor-law board, unless the architect shall hereafter be employed in the erection of such workhouses, in which case he shall be paid a commission for his services as the guardians may then determine."

The shortness of the time, three weeks, allowed for the requisite study and preparation of drawings, which are to be so perfect as to meet the views of the two boards (and as you know, Sir, boards too often disagree) must have been the reason for this uncommon, this magnificent liberality.

The guardians are evidently in no want of funds (no limit of expenditure is suggested), and are desirous that the most practiced talent of the country shall be invited to enter the arena of competition in this instance; it is to be hoped they may meet with the success they merit—of course treble or quadruple the usual pecuniary payment may be given, but as the competitors are to do their work, and then arrange about payment, it is no slight matter of anxiety that there should be no self-delusion. Ought not every competitor to send an open written declaration with his work of the amount he modestly expects, and will insist upon considering a condition of "employment?"

Every one will be glad that it should be known beforehand that these unnamed Mercenaires are all "honourable men." Indeed I have seen a note from the clerk of the Board, in which he states that 5 per cent. will not be paid, but the guardians will decide what percentage they will allow, which is so cleverly put, that the competitors place themselves in the dark at the discretion of the guardians, for an appreciation of the money value of their labours. What if 2 or 3 per cent. be meant? This, of course, is an absurd suggestion.

An exhibition of this model of a workhouse for 500 persons, with its necessary arrangements, will be so valuable, that no doubt the architect who nobly refuses, or is refused the sum proposed, and thus is liable to be called upon to attend to the erection of the building (for nothing if the guardians like, or worse, at an outlay of his own money,) will be found to explain to his brethren the peculiarities which inspiration almost must have directed him to adopt. Surely the board does not want drawings and no architect.

Some people wonder whether, if the guardians were to be so lost to the "proprietary"

as to say nothing about the *houceur*, and to offer 2 per cent. (is not this the allowance of the Poor-law board?) the unhappy architect could find any mode of eliciting a better offer. I think that he certainly could not help himself, for they would have the design, and he would be somewhat in the position of another professional man, whose designs for a church, also "a hundred miles from town," was adopted, who was engaged to provide specifications and contracts, and who, rashly agreeing to receive payment for his services proportionately with his certificates, found that, from a want of sufficient funds from the beginning of the competition, his applications for some remuneration were adjourned "till better times."

Y. Z.

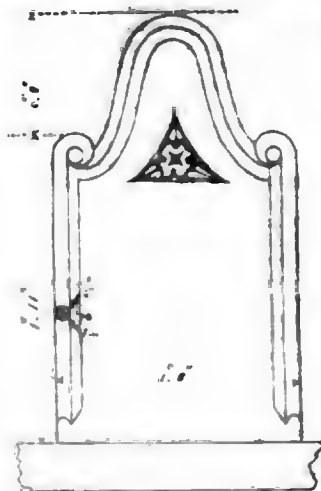
#### MITCHEL DEAN CHURCH.

MITCHEL DEAN lies on the road from Gloucester to Coleford, at the north-east corner of the Forest of Dean. Some years back before the establishment of the market at Ross, it had a considerable trade, and the market then was well attended: it has now dwindled down to a very poor village.

The church, however, still renders the town worth a visit; it is of considerable size, consisting of a nave and three aisles, with tower and spire at the south-west angle.

The chancel and tower are of decorated date, and the south aisle appears to be of the same period, as, though the windows are now filled in with perpendicular tracery, the decorated labels still remain. The rest of the church is perpendicular, with the exception of a cusped early English triplet, at the west end of the first north aisle (nearest nave). There are not, however, any further traces of early work perceptible, which would lead to the belief that this aisle had been the former nave of church. This aisle has a beautiful flat panelled perpendicular roof. The other north aisle roof is very good, but similar to those usually found. The roof of nave is semicircular, of plaster, with wood ribs and bosses. The roof of south aisle has been destroyed.

Some few years ago a painting was discovered over the chancel arch; it appears to be painted on wood, in panels, and to represent the sufferings of our Lord.



The accompanying sketch of one of the seat ends is rather peculiar: they are all covered in with ugly high-backed deal pews. Probably a sufficient number might be found to repeat the nave and one of the aisles. They appear to be perpendicular work. There is also a handsome perpendicular pulpit, but it cannot be seen if it has any stem left, so effectually is it hid. The piscina is in decorated work, and no doubt belongs to that date.

C. H. WHATLEY.

**INGENIOUS TABLE.**—Mr. Jackson, of Leicester, has registered an ingenious table for finding the day of the week or month at sight, from the year 1840 to 1900.\* It is very useful in many cases.

\* Lettis and Co., Royal Exchange.

#### SUPPLY OF WATER—INTERMITTENT AND CONSTANT.

SIR,—Having lately had my attention called to a work, entitled "The Engineer's Reply to Dr. Southwood Smith's Questions respecting constant Supply, published by order of the Directors of the East London Water Works," in which the engineer has attempted to shew the great advantages of an intermittent, and the practical difficulties and enormous additional expenditure attendant on the "constant supply of water,"—it has occurred to me that a few lines in your valuable journal may be of service in dispelling the doubt which it is possible may linger in the minds of some parties on this subject, in exposing the fallacy on which the engineer appears to have founded his arguments, but more especially as a warning to the public against placing confidence in views so injurious to an important and universal benefit as that of a "constant supply of water."

Having been placed in a position for many years where I have had an opportunity of witnessing the working of the intermittent system, in an extensive town, where the yearly rental is near thirty thousand pounds, I feel myself equally qualified with Mr. Wickstead in forming an opinion of its efficacy in comparison to that of "constant supply," and I have no hesitation in expressing my unqualified disapprobation of the views he has advocated, and in dissenting entirely from the validity of his conclusions. Dr. Southwood Smith is too well versed in the subject not to see the sophisms involved in the arguments adduced in favour of the "intermittent system," and knows well these are not times to be wasted in frivolous twisted arguments to suit a particular purpose, when the general health of the population is the sacrifice.

In the town to which I have alluded, where the intermittent system is fully carried out, there are from ten to fifteen thousand houses, varying considerably in the levels, supplied with water at the same time, in the few hours the water is kept on the pipes (the other parts of the town being supplied afterwards), and this without that awful consequence which the East London Water Works engineer contemplates in the water rushing from the higher into the lower districts, and leaving the upper parts without any supply of water. If, therefore, this number of houses can be supplied with water, when all may be presumed to be drawing at the same time, is it not manifestly absurd to say they cannot be supplied when that supply is spread over the twenty-four hours, and they are not drawing at the same time?

If this argument, which the engineer so strenuously holds, of the water going headlong, like "Hyperion down the eastern steeps," into the lower districts, be correct with regard to the constant supply, it would hold equally with the intermittent system, and we should have found in the case to which I have alluded, not a drop of water received by parties in the higher districts, but which, of course, it is unnecessary for me to remark upon.

In conclusion, I will only say, I consider a "constant supply," under proper systematic arrangements, the most economical and decidedly effectual method of supplying a town with water: it is sheer nonsense to talk of engineering difficulties—there are no such things in a case like this. J. P.

**LIFE ASSURANCE IN FIRMS.**—Joint assurances are occasionally effected by the partners in a trading firm, and at the charge of the company. They are marked by consummate prudence and foresight, and we should greatly rejoice to know that this practice was extending. It enables mercantile firms, on a partner's death, to put aside at once, if that be desirable, the capital that he may have invested or formed in their trading. Many circumstances, within the last eighteen months, have convinced us that this scheme should be universally adopted. The annual charge to the company is limited, and its payment should be easily practicable in ordinary circumstances. We urge this matter on the mercantile and trading community, from a belief that it has been generally overlooked, and that life assurance has greater benefits to yield to society in this department, than have been hitherto anticipated.—*Tail's Magazine.*

\* Somebody said somewhere that a plan only is needed for now-a-days, and that a plan does not include elevations, sections, or showy perspective drawings. How good of the guardians to want none of these.